

# Missouri Department of Mental Health

## Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Mark Stringer  
Division Director

### Use of Methamphetamines

**Methamphetamine** (Meth) is a Schedule II stimulant drug that is highly addictive and is only legally available by prescription in low doses to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, depression and narcolepsy<sup>1</sup>. The Schedule II rating indicates that the drug has a high potential for abuse but has some therapeutic value. Meth is a white, odorless powder that can be dissolved easily in liquids but has a bitter taste. It can be snorted through the nose, injected with a needle, smoked or taken orally.

#### Health Hazards<sup>2</sup>:

- ❖ Potential exposure to HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, TB with IV injection use
- ❖ Altered brain function affecting emotion and memory
- ❖ Chronic Use of Meth:
  - × Anxiety
  - × Confusion
  - × Mood Disturbances
  - × Insomnia
  - × Violent Behavior
  - × Paranoia
  - × Visual and/or Auditory Hallucinations
  - × Delusions
  - × Extreme Weight Loss
  - × Serious Dental Problems.

#### Environmental Hazards<sup>2</sup>:

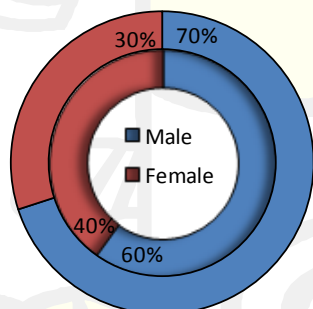
- ❖ Toxic chemicals that are corrosive or flammable
- ❖ Hazardous wastes produced by the "cooking" process
  - × Corrosive Liquids
  - × Acid Vapors
  - × Heavy Metals
  - × Solvents
- ❖ Approximately 6 lbs of waste produced for 1lb Meth
- ❖ Typically these wastes are dumped in rural parks or in rivers

#### Treatment in MO

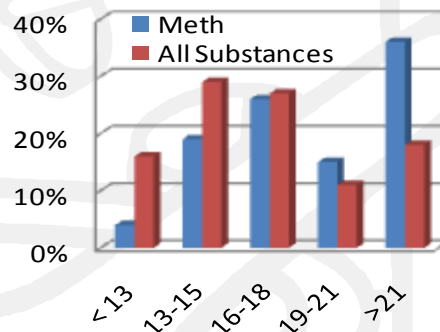
Between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008<sup>3</sup>:

- ❖ 3,523 Admissions for Meth as Primary Drug
- ❖ 9% of total substance abuse admissions.
- ❖ 74% 18- 39 years old
- ❖ 97% Caucasian
- ❖ Referral Source
  - × 65% referred from criminal justice system
  - × 24% referred by family or self
- ❖ Frequency of Use at Admission:
  - × 19% Weekly use
  - × 11% Monthly use
  - × 9% Daily use

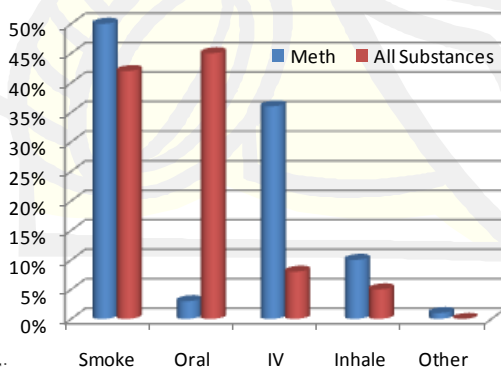
**Gender**  
Outer Circle: All Substances  
Inner Circle: Meth



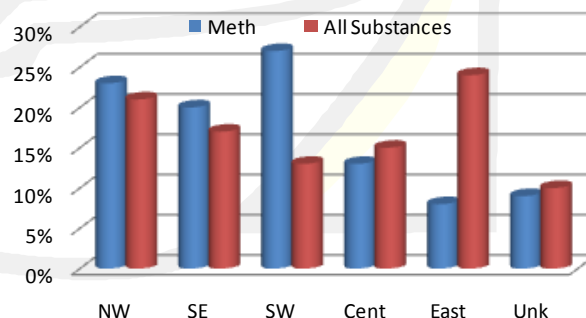
**Age of First Use**



**Method of Use**



**Region of Residence**



Sources:

1. Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Alcohol & Drug Fact Sheets – Amphetamines. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/infacts/methamphetamine.html>
2. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Fact Sheet, <http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/pubs/presrel/methfact01.html>
3. Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, As reported from Consumer Information Management, Outcomes and Reporting System, 2008.